

REMARKS TO GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

February 27, 1967

Perhaps, on rare occasions, I may have the honor of speaking before audiences composed of individuals as distinguished as the individuals in this audience — but I doubt that I shall ever have the honor of speaking before a group as collectively and cohesively impressive as the Greater Baltimore Committee. Impressive as you are as individuals whose attainments have been recognized by your respective enterprises, as people whose energies and talents have made you leaders of the City's major industrial, commercial and financial institutions, yet are you more impressive as a collective organization whose combined concern and initiative have achieved dramatic accomplishments in and for the City of Baltimore.

There is no need to belabor the obvious — the very building in which we meet tonight, and others which are clearly visible from these windows, are magnificent monuments rising in tribute to the imagination and determination of the Greater Baltimore Committee. Gentlemen, you have breathed new life into a tired city; you have brought beauty where there was ugliness. You have not only checked decay, but generated growth — and all of this you have accomplished through your own vision, your own initiative and your own conviction. Your City, your State, and present and future generations of your community owe you a deep and genuine debt of gratitude — not only for the beauty which you have restored to Baltimore, not only for the economy which you have replenished, but for the inspiration which your tangible success as men of good will and commitment has provided.

In the months ahead the new State administration will often have cause to refer to the accomplishments of the Greater Baltimore Committee for guidance — as we immediately face problems, extensive in scope, and challenges monumental in proportion. Passage of the fiscal reform legislation is imperative to provide Baltimore City with sufficient revenue and revenue resources to meet critical needs and to assure continued economic development. The writing of a valid, new Constitution will enable the State to be politically rejuvenated, so that government may act with greater flexibility and efficiency. Major social problems, ranging from the critical situation in Maryland's prisons to the genuine recognition of individual rights, must be honestly assessed and resolved. New environmental hazards, air and water pollution, threaten the health of our citizens and the growth